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Much Evidence In Castro-JFK Question

By FRANK VAN DER LINDEN

WASHINGTON — The Senate's new Intelligence Committee cannot escape the awesome task of finding the answer to the question: Did the murder of John F. Kennedy result from his administration's own plots to assassinate Fidel Castro?

The Select Intelligence Committee, in its final report, points to a lot of evidence leading in that direction and challenges the new panel, headed by Hawaii Democrat Daniel Inouye, to follow the tantalizing clues.

THE EVIDENCE shows that the Warren Commission's report — tagging Lee Harvey Oswald as the lone, crazed gunman, with no ties whatever to any foreign conspiracy, and with no apparent motive for murder — was not based on all the facts. It was programmed in advance under orders from President Lyndon B. Johnson, who feared that the revelation of either Soviet or Cuban involvement in the murder could touch off World War III. Hence the official decision to cover up nasty facts that did not fit the "lone gunman" scenario.

The Senate report also shows the Central Intelligence Agency's highest officials withheld from the Warren Commission the shocking truth that the CIA itself was involved in plots to kill Castro. The Cuban dictator had found out about the plots and thus had a strong motive for hiring an assassin to kill Kennedy first.

That was why Castro on Sept. 7, 1963, issued his warning to the press that, if United States leaders were aiding terrorist plans to eliminate him, "they themselves will not be safe."

The CIA was plotting with "Am-Lash," a Cuban identified as a Castro intimate named Ronaldo Cubela, to provide him with guns for a coup that would involve Castro's assassination. On Oct. 29, 1963, the late Desmond Fitzgerald, who headed the CIA's special affairs staff, was introduced to "Am-Lash" as "a personal representative" of the President's brother, Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Former CIA Director Richard Helms has testified that the CIA was instructed by the Kennedys "to get going on plans to get rid of Castro" by any device that would work. The report also included testimony that another CIA official, Richard Bissell, was "chewed out in the Cabinet Room of the White House by both the President and the Attorney General for . . . sitting on his ass and not doing anything about getting rid of Castro."

By Nov. 19, 1963, Fitzgerald told the CIA case officer to tell "Am-Lash" he would get rifles, telescopic sights and explosives for the coup. A ballpoint pen, with a needle to inject a lethal dose of poison into Castro, was handed over to the Cuban agent by a CIA officer on the very day of the Kennedy murder, Nov. 22, 1963.

Yet the desk officer who coordinated the CIA inquiry into the assassination knew nothing about this. He told Senate investigators only last month, that, if he had been told about it, "I certainly think that would have become an absolutely vital factor in analyzing the events surrounding the Kennedy assassination."

In fact, neither the CIA nor the Federal Bureau of Investigation made any full-scale inquiry to find out if Cubans were involved with Oswald, although he had visited the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City two months before the assassi-